

Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States

COMMANDERY OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

In Memoriam

GEORGE FREDERICK BAER

Captain 133d Pennsylvania Infantry

DIED AT PHILADELPHIA PA. APRIL 26 1914

Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

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Philadelphia, August 17, 1914.

GEORGE FREDERICK BAER.

Captain 133d Pennsylvania Infantry August 15, 1862; honorably mustered out May 26, 1863.

Elected May 4, 1892. Class 1. Insignia 9493.

Born September 26, 1842, in Somerset Co., Pa.

Died April 26, 1914, at Philadelphia, Pa.

Companion Geo. F. Baer raised a company of volunteers from Somerset Co. and vicinity, which was mustered into the service as Co. E, 133d Regiment Penna. Infantry, and of this company Companion Baer was commissioned Captain, though not yet 20 years old. He served the time of his enlistment (nine months) and was mustered out with his company May 26, 1863. For part of the time he acted by detail as Adjutant-General of the Second Brigade of Humphrys' Division. His company joined the Army of the Potomac at the second battle of Bull Run, and his company participated in the battles of Antietam, Fredricksburg and Chancellorsville. Its most distinguished service was in forming the advance line in the famous charge on Fredricksburg Heights, December 13, 1862. He was a member of General Keim Post 76, G. A. R.

Companion Baer, from humble beginning, advanced himself to national prominence during his life. He was a great executive, an able lawyer, an orator of ability, a brave soldier in young manhood, an editor for a time, and forever a citizen of great prominence and public spirit. Rising to one of the most exalted positions attained by any man of his time from the most humble condition, Geo. F. Baer became one of the colossal figures of the railroad and financial world, a great captain of industry, whose loss will be deeply felt by everybody.

Upon returning from the Army, Geo. F. Baer selected the law as his profession, and after pursuing a course of legal studies in the office of his brothers, William and Herman Baer, attorneys at the Somerset bar, he was admitted at the regular term in April, 1864. He began immediately the practice of his profession, and under the guidance of his brothers for the next four years was made thoroughly familiar with the intricacies of his profession.

He then removed to Reading, Pa., for the purpose of locating there, having visited the city some months before, and on January 22, 1868, was admitted to the Bar of Berks Co. His legal ability brought him at once into a large and remunerative business, and within a decade he was considered the leading lawyer of Reading, engaged in almost every case of importance. This extensive and remunerative practice before the court, local and supreme, both state and national, continued for 30 years, when his important services as solicitor to the Reading Railway Co., during this period, eventually resulted in his selection as President of the reorganized corporation in 1901, and he has been re-elected annually for the past thirteen years, evidencing the highly satisfactory manner of his services in the management.

Companion Baer was engaged in many activities during his life. At the time of his death he was either President or Director of at least 25 corporations, commercial, financial, railroads or manufacture, and his services and counsels were ever highly appreciated and looked upon.

He was President of the Reading Park Board since its inception and retired only after the city began to serve under the new commission laws. Many of the beautiful improvements in the park and on Mount Penn are due to his untiring and energetic influence.

He was prominently identified with Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa., since 1872 as trustee and as president of the Board of Trustees since 1894, always laboring diligently for the advancement of the institution, and contributed largely toward its financial support. In 1886 the College conferred upon him the degree of "Doctor of Law," and the Alumni Association at the annual meeting in 1895 elected him vice-president.

He had a large patriotism that was greater than any political preference, and he could have wielded a great political influence had he cared to exert it. He was a ruler, yet moderate, sympathetic and human.

He was a philanthropist in the truest sense, but his attribute in this respect was unostentatious. He was a man of very large capacity for work. His idea was: "Work—worship work, work hard. Pick a field of enterprise, select the thing you want to do, and then stick to that idea. But be sure you decide the right thing."

We, his Companions of the Loyal Legion, will miss him, the citizens of Philadelphia and Reading will miss him as one of the most prominent it has been their good fortune to possess; his memory will ever remain inviolate, and as one of the great captains of industry during a period remarkable for the conflict of big business with the federal government, Geo. F. Baer will live in history.

His wife, Mrs. Emily (Kimmel) Baer, survives him with five daughters, and to them we express our heartfelt sympathies.

His father was Major Solomon Baer, born in 1774, in Northampton Co. His grandfather was John Jacob Baer, born in Northampton Co. in 1761. His great grandfather was Christopher Baer, who emigrated from Zweibruecken (Rhinebavaria) in 1743, and located in Northampton Co., Penna.

Geo. F. Baer was strongly identified with the Second Reformed Church, being a regular attendant and a large contributor.

D. McM. GREGG,
Brevet Major-General U. S. Volunteers.
PRINCE R. STETSON,
Captain 15th U. S. Infantry.
PHILIP BISSINGER,
Captain 79th Penna. Infantry.
LEWIS CRATER,
First Lieutenant and Adjutant 50th Penna. Infantry.
Committee.

By command of

Colonel HENRY S. HUIDEKOPER, U. S. V.
Commander

JOHN P. NICHOLSON
Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel U. S. V.
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Official

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